

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN AMENDMENT IN HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

1. ON APRIL 6 DURING MARKUP OF THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE FIRST BUDGET RESOLUTION, REP MATTOX (D-TEX) OFFERED AN AMENDMENT TO CUT \$89 MILLION FROM THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR AID TO KOREA. THE \$89 MILLION BREAKDOWNS AS FOLLOW \$59.3 MILLION IN PL-480 AND PEACE CORPS, \$2.0 MILLION IN IMET AND \$27.5 MILLION IN FMS (THE 10 PERCENT OF \$275 MILLION REQUIRED ON BUDGET). DURING THE DEBATE MATTOX SAID HE WAS OFFERING THE AMENDMENT AS A SIGNAL TO KOREA SINCE JAWORSKI HAD TOLD HIM THE INVESTIGATION COULD NOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT THE TESTIMONY OF KIM DONG JO. MATTOX FURTHER QUOTED JAWORSKI AS SAYING IN SPITE OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH THE KOREANS, HE WAS NOT GETTING THE COOPERATION HE REQUIRED RELATING TO KIM'S AVAILABILITY.

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2. REP FRASER OPPOSED THE AMENDMENT NOTING A REPORT THAT THE ROK HAD REQUESTED THE USG MAKE AVAILABLE AMB. PORTER IN LIGHT OF THE LATTER'S TELEVISION STATEMENT THAT THE US HAD BUGGED THE BLUE HOUSE. FRASER SAID HE WAS RELUCTANT TO FORCE A REQUIREMENT ON A GOVERNMENT WHICH THE USG IS UNWILLING TO ABIDE BY. REP. OBEY (D-WISC) SUGGESTED THAT

THE PROPER PLACE TO OFFER THE AMENDMENT WAS ON THE HOUSE FLOOR DURING CONSIDERATION OF EITHER THE BUDGET RESOLUTION OR ONE OF THE TWO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BILLS. NOTE: THE FIRST HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION WOULD COME TO THE FLOOR SOMETIME AROUND MAY 15TH. REP. CONABLE (R-NY) OPPOSED THE AMENDMENT, SUGGESTING THE BUDGET COMMITTEE WAS NOT THE FORUM IN WHICH TO DEBATE SENSITIVE FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

3. AT THE END OF THE DEBATE, MATTOX WITHDREW HIS AMENDMENT, STATING HE WOULD OFFER IT DURING FLOOR CONSIDERATION IF THE IMPASSE REGARDING KIM DONG JO HAD NOT BEEN RESOLVED.
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